

REMARKS

Claims 6-9 have been amended to correct certain informalities. No new matter has been added. Thus, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-11 will be pending in this application.

Applicants appreciate the acknowledgement that the proposed drawing correction filed on April 23, 2003 was approved. Replacement sheets containing formal drawings of FIGs. 2, 10a, 10b, 11, 13, and 16 are attached hereto.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bisschops et al. (EP 1052551 A2). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a lithographic projection apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, at least one conduit communicating a utility, a conduit shield substantially enclosing a space comprising the at least one conduit and substantially separating the vacuum chamber from the space comprising the at least one conduit. In contrast, Bisschops et al. does not disclose such features. In Bisschops et al., element 11a is not a conduit; element 11a is an aperture in the floor of the vacuum chamber (V). (Bisschops et al. at paragraph [0024]). Also, element 12 is not a conduit shield; element 12 is a sliding seal that separates the vacuum chamber (V) from the motor compartment (M) by sealing the aperture. (Bisschops et al. at paragraphs [0024] – [0027]). Thus, element 12 does not substantially enclose a space comprising the at least one conduit. Further, element 12 cannot substantially separate the vacuum chamber from the space comprising the at least one conduit because element 11a is part of the vacuum chamber. (See Bisschops et al. at FIG. 2). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and the claims the depend from claim 1, are patentable over Bisschops et al. and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 9 recites a device manufacturing method using a lithographic apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, providing a utility through a conduit and shielding a vacuum in the vacuum chamber from the conduit with a conduit shield. As explained above, Bisschops et al. does not disclose a conduit or a conduit shield. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9, and claim 10 which depends from claim 9, are patentable over Bisschops et al. and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 11 recites a lithographic projection apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, a conduit communicating a utility, a second vacuum region within which the conduit is disposed, and a conduit shield separating the second vacuum region from the first vacuum region. As explained above, Bisschops et al. does not disclose a conduit or a conduit shield.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is patentable over Bisschops et al. and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

All rejections and objections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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